(*b*) that they are put to inconvenience and difficulty owing to the want of a bridge at Kayikkara crossing?

(2) If the answer is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and take early steps to redress these grievances?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) and (2). The Government are not aware and will enquire.

Nagercoil Distillery Contract.

99. **MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) who the present contractor of the Nagercoil distillery is;

(*b*) whether he is a Travancorean and how long he has been the contractor of the above distillery;

(*c*) whether there were any other applicants for the above, for 1101 or 1102; if so, who they were and how their applications were disposed of;

(*d*) whether it was transacted in open auction or by private negotiation;

(*e*) whether the present contractor was ever given any loan from the Government, and, if so, how much and when; and

(*f*) whether the Government enquired into his solvency or otherwise before doing so?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Receivers and Managers of the Nadar Estate.

(*b*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. From the beginning of 1100.

(*c*) There was no separate contract for 1101. For information regarding the biennial contract beginning with 1102, the member is referred to the answer to part (*d*) of question No. 9 asked by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai on the 22nd November 1926. Besides the persons therein mentioned, the Managing Agents, Travancore Sugars, Ltd., also applied. Their applications were rejected as their rates were higher than those of the accepted tenderer.

(*d*) Tenders were invited by notification in the *Government Gazette*.

(*e*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not, therefore, arise.

(*f*) In view of the answer to part (*e*), this does not arise.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the names of the persons referred to here as the receivers and managers of the Nadar's Estate?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Fraser and Ross C. A.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Did the Government enquire into the solvency or otherwise of the contractors, *viz.*, the Receivers and Managers of the Nadar's Estate before the contract was given to them?

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, the Government were satisfied as regards their solvency.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Who will be liable for the default, if there be any, on the part of these contractors?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is a hypothetical question.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are the Receivers and Managers responsible for any default in this contract?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is a question of law in regard to which opinion has to be got from experts.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know how long these contractors have been taking this identical contract?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIAR (*Secretary to Government*): I think it is given there. This contract dates from 1101.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I understand that this contract was not given to them before 1101?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The present contract was given to them only in the year 1101.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether this is the first time that they have taken the contract?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know for how long they have been holding this contract?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The information is not available now.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to understand that these contractors bid least in the contract?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes. The answer is there.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Government are of opinion that a son of the soil has to be preferred in this matter to a foreigner?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is a matter of opinion and it cannot be answered either as an original or as a supplementary question.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the tender offered by the Managing Agents, Travancore Sugars, Ltd. and Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Co.?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): For jaggery arrack, Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Co. offered the rate of B. Rs. 2-10 per gallon, while the Managing Agents, Travancore Sugars Ltd., offered the rate of B. Rs. 2-6-7 per gallon. For toddy arrack, Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Co.'s rate was B. Rs. 6-6-0 per gallon while the Managing Agents, Travancore Sugars Ltd., offered the rate of B. Rs. 6-1-0.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : What is the bid of the present contractor ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : The rates are Rs. 2 as. 5 p. 6. and Rs. 7 as. 8 p. 0.

Toddy arrack is a necessary element which has to go with the jaggery contract.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Were there no other contractors besides the Managing Agents, Travancore Sugars, Ltd., Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Co. and Fraser and Ross ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Co., the Managing Agents, Travancore Sugars, Ltd. and Fraser and Ross C. A. were the only three tenderers for the contract.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Was any security taken from the Receivers and Managers of the Nadar Estate ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : That question does not, I submit, arise I may say, however, that an agreement has been taken. That agreement is not with me. Therefore I am unable to answer the question now.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The member is not in a position to answer that question now. Moreover, that does not arise.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Did other contractors, *viz.*, Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Company and the Managing Agents, Travancore Sugars, Ltd. offer to give any security for this contract ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Nothing is said in the question about security.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : I want to know whether the Government are of opinion that the Receivers and Managers of the Nadar Estate could be held liable for any default on their part ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : I have already said that no question asking for an expression of opinion can be put under the Rules.

Place of Residence of the Irrigation Officer, Suchindram Section.

100. **MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware of the difficulty experienced by a certain section of the ryots of Agastisvaram in the matter of approaching the Irrigation Officer of the Suchindram Section, owing to the place of his residence in Suchindram being in a prohibited area ; and

(*b*) whether they noted the article referring to this in the weekly, the "Travancore Times", and whether they propose to remove the difficulty ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) No. The Section Office is held in a private rented building by the side of the public road from Nagercoil to the Cape and it is accessible to the public.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

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